

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM						
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET		
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP						
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS			
1	CE Rocca					
2	A. E. Doolan		J			
3	T. HALL		J			
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5	Return to					
6	Mr. Rocca.					
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<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/>		RECOMMENDATION
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<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>		SIGNATURE
Remarks:						
<p>CIA has also sent cable to State Cabinet to Mum</p> <p>Delunk</p>						
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER						
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE	
DAP					26 May	
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FORM NO. 2-61 237

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: RI/AN
EXTENSION: NO
DATE: XAAZ-22769
25 May 64

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)
DATE RECEIVED FORWARDED
OFFICER'S INITIALS
COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1	CI/RA	20	29			
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Document Number 707-308
for FOIA Review on JUN 1976



AN WFA	CI/RA
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201-289248

DD/P 4-2676

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

200 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone 543-1400

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J. LEE RANKIN,
General Counsel

XAAZ-22769

MAY 25 1964

Request from Warren Commission for additional info on Oswald's obtaining of USSR tourist visa in Helsinki

Mr. Richard Helms
Deputy Director for Plans
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

In connection with some discussions recently had with Mr. Abram Chayes, The Legal Adviser to the Department of State, Mr. Chayes has informed the Commission that members of the Department of State have informed him that at the time Lee Harvey Oswald received his tourist visa to enter Russia from the Soviet Embassy at Helsinki, Finland, at least a week ordinarily transpired between the time when the tourist applied for his visa and the issuance of that visa. If this is true, then the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald obtained his tourist visa in from two to four days may have some significance.

From material previously supplied to the Commission by the Central Intelligence Agency we have concluded that Oswald arrived in Helsinki on an airplane from London on October 10, 1959, that his Soviet tourist visa was issued from the Embassy in Helsinki on October 14, and that he departed for Moscow on a train on October 15. Assuming that he applied for a visa the same day he arrived in Helsinki, four days were required for him to obtain the visa. If, however, his airplane arrived too late on October 10 for him to reach the Soviet Embassy and apply for a visa that same day, he probably would have had to wait until Monday, October 12, to tender his application. We have no information on the probable time of arrival of his flight or the closing time of the Embassy, so we cannot estimate whether he had sufficient time to get from the airport to the Embassy before it closed on Saturday, October 10.

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201-289248
25 May 1964

We have already asked that the Department of State look further into this matter and give us its best opinion regarding the average time required to obtain a Soviet tourist visa from Helsinki in October 1959 and also the regularity or lack of regularity evidenced by the Soviet Embassy in this regard. We are of course interested in the question of the regularity of procedures because we want to know whether, if Oswald did in fact obtain his visa more quickly than was normal, his doing so was significant, or whether it may have been only the result of a not-infrequent deviation from normal procedures.

If it is still possible at this time to determine the approximate hour on October 10, 1959 when Oswald's flight arrived in Helsinki and the hour when the Soviet Embassy closed, this information, plus an estimate of the time required to travel from the airport to the Embassy by commercial transportation, would also be of assistance to the Commission.

Sincerely,


J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel

SEP 11 1959

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